



**View of Columbia River showing approximate location of the National Park Service Waterfront interpretive area.**

*“Were invited to a ride to see the farm have rode fifteen miles the afternoon. Vancouver is finely situated on the Columbia 130 miles from the ocean: Just above the mouth of the Wallamut Called on maps Multnomah. We visited the barn stock, &c They estimate their wheat crops at 4000 bushels this year peas the same oats & barley between 15 & 1700 bushels each. The potatoes & turnip fields are large & fine. Their cattle are numerous, estimated at 1000 head in all their settlements. Also sheep & goats. But the sheep are of an inferiour kind. We find also Hens Turkeys Pigeons but no geese.”*

*Narcissa Whitman  
September 14, 1836*

*“Every day we have something new to see. Went to the stores & found them filled with the cargos of the two ships both above & below, all in unbroken bails. They are chiefly Indians goods, & will be sent away this fall to the several different posts of the Com. In the Ship Neriade. Find here also every article for comfort & durability we need, but many articles for convenience & all Fancy articles are not here. Visited the Dairy also. Here we find butter & cheese in abundance Saw an improvement in the manner of raising cream...They milk between fifty & sixty cows here. On visiting the mill did not find it in a high state of improvement.”*

*Narcissa Whitman  
September 16, 1836*

## Open House: Public Meetings for Draft GMP

The NPS has prepared a draft general management plan and environmental impact statement for Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. During the 60-day public comment period, four open houses during two days will be held to allow the public an opportunity to discuss the draft plan with NPS planners and park staff.

The open house format is informal and presents and excellent opportunity for the public to ask questions one-on-one with NPS officials, and to individually express comments and concerns about the plan. Copies of the draft plan will be sent to the park mailing list and will be available in area libraries, at the park, and on the NPS website, [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov) and click on Fort Vancouver.

Written comments are welcome and should be sent to the Superintendent, Fort Vancouver NHS, 612 East Reserve Street, Vancouver, WA 98661 or written in the enclosed form in the center of this newsletter. Comments will be received through January 6, 2003.

Please call Superintendent Fortmann at (360) 696-7655 if you have additional questions.

## Public Open Houses

Water Resources Education Center  
Wednesday, December 11, 2-4 p.m. and 7-9:30 p.m.  
4600 S.E. Columbia Way  
Vancouver, Washington 98668

McLoughlin House National Historic Site/Barclay House  
Thursday, December 12, 2-4 p.m. and 7-9:30 p.m.  
719 Center Street  
Oregon City, Oregon 97045

**Superintendent  
Fort Vancouver National Historic Site  
612 East Reserve Street  
Vancouver, WA 98661**

OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE - \$300

**FIRST CLASS MAIL  
POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
NATIONAL PARK  
SERVICE-INTERIOR  
PERMIT NO. G-83**

**Fort VancouverNational Historic Site**

Draft General Management Plan Newsletter  
Special Edition Fall 2002





A Message from the Superintendent



Dear Friends,

*It is with great pleasure that the National Park Service submits to you, for review and comment, the Draft Fort Vancouver National Historic Site General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. Once finalized next year, the General Management Plan will provide park management with a fifteen year blueprint concerning the future operation and protection of this historic site.*

*The Draft General Management Plan offers three alternative approaches related to the public use and enjoyment of the area, and three strategies for the long-term protection of the Historic Site. The environmental consequences section of the document provides the public, agency officials and others with the understanding of the effects that each respective alternative would have on the environment.*

*Your input to this draft is important to us and will help to make this a better plan for the future of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. We cordially invite both your written comments as well as your attendance at the “Open House” meetings that will be held relating to this draft plan. The “Open House” will provide an opportunity for you to meet with park staff and planners to ask questions and provide comments. Dates, times and locations for the “Open House” are provided in this newsletter.*

*To provide adequate time for public review and comment, written comments will be received until Monday, January 6, 2003. Please send written comments you may have to:*

Superintendent, Fort Vancouver NHS  
612 East Reserve Street  
Vancouver, Washington 98661

*Thank you, in advance, for your participation and involvement in the planning process, and for the continued trust you place in the National Park Service to manage this national treasure on behalf of the American people.*

Tracy A. Fortmann  
Superintendent

National Park Service Releases Draft General Management Plan

The National Park Service has just published the *Draft Fort Vancouver National Historic Site General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* (GMP/EIS). This plan will provide the necessary framework to guide the management of the national historic site (NHS) for the next 15-20 years. It is intended to be a useful long-term decision-making tool, providing NPS managers with a logical and trackable rationale for decisions about the protection and public use of park resources.

At the beginning of the planning process, a series of public scoping meetings were held to present the purpose and significance of the NHS to the public, to outline park mission goals, and to present issues that would be addressed in the plan. Input was solicited from the public and other governmental agencies to discern if there were other issues needing to be addressed in the plan which were not initially listed.

In response to these issues, and cognizant of the mission goals established for the NHS, the GMP offers three alternative approaches for the protection, public use, and management of the park’s resources. Copies of the document are available for review at the Vancouver Public Library and on the Internet at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov). Copies can be obtained by calling the park at (360) 696-7655 and requesting one. The following alternatives were developed for public review and comment.

Actions Common to All Alternatives

Certain actions would be undertaken at Fort Vancouver NHS regardless of the alternative chosen. In coordination with the City of Vancouver, the NPS staff would provide a link for the city’s Discovery Historic Loop Trail through the national historic site. This would include a proposed pedestrian overpass/land bridge across State Route 14 and the railroad that would link the fort to the waterfront area. In

addition to serving as the central repository for HBC and early Army, the NHS would function as a research center for the early history of the area. Other actions would include restoring the agricultural fields surrounding the fort palisade when the remaining T-hangars and metal museum building are removed by the City of Vancouver; developing a plan for the research and education center to address its scope, size and location and staffing needs; and seeking additional funding for staff, office space, and equipment in the areas of education, interpretation, historic preservation and resource management to fulfill NPS responsibilities for involvement in the Vancouver National Historic Reserve.

Alternative A-No Action

Alternative A constitutes the No Action Alternative and assumes that existing conditions, including programming, facilities, staffing, and funding would generally con-

*(continued on following page)*

New Dates for GMP Planning Steps and Schedule  
General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

PLANNING ACTIVITY	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	
1 Gather Data and Establish Goals and Vision	Winter 2000	
2 Develop Alternatives	Fall 2000	
3 Prepare and Publish a Draft GMP/EIS	Fall 2002	*We Are Here
4 Revise Draft and Publish Final GMP/EIS	Spring 2003	
5 Begin Implementation	Summer 2003-2004	



# Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

## Draft General Management Plan Summary of Actions for Each Alternative



ACTIONS	ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C
---------	---------------	---------------	---------------

Cultural Resource Management			
------------------------------	--	--	--

Fort	Retain 14 current buildings and reconstruct additional buildings as able, including Sale Shop and New Store, and Counting House.	Seek private and public funding to reconstruct 9 additional historic structures. Reconstruct historic trails within Fort and remove asphalt foundation pads.	Reconstruct 14 remaining historic structures within fort palisade for full fort build-out. Reconstruct historic trails within Fort and remove asphalt foundation pads.
Parade Ground	Maintain site as usual with special events under special permit.	Determine the appropriate future use for increasing number of special events.	Same as Alternative B.
Village and Environs	Retain in current condition and provide limited on-site interpretation and improvements.	Reconstruct 2 village residences, and associated gardens. Delineate houses where accurate locations are known. Restore cultural landscape where possible. Relocate portion of orchard to historic location. Reconstruct Summer House if possible.	Same as Alternative B, plus reconstruct or delineate additional village structures as able. Create ethnobotanical garden at Waterfront. Restore cultural landscape and reintroduce livestock to site. Restore historic orchard to original size and location, as able. Reconstruct Summer House, 2 historic School Houses, and historic barn.
Fort Vancouver Waterfront	Maintain site as city park under agreement with City of Vancouver. Provide no on-site interpretation or major improvements. Construct pedestrian overpass to connect Fort and Village to Waterfront and Apple Tree Park.	Partially reconstruct Salmon Store as interpretive shed. Delineate structures such as boat shed, hospital, and palisade. Simulate original location of wharf on dry land. Delineate portions of historic pond. Construct natural amphitheater. Construct pedestrian overpass/land bridge to link Fort to Waterfront and provide interpretation. Realign portion of Columbia Way.	Same as Alternative B with following changes: fully reconstruct Salmon Store; close portion of Columbia Way; restore portions of historic pond; delineate 6 structures including hospital and palisade; reconstruct wharf into Columbia River; and open berm through railroad embankment.
Research and Education Center	Research center function remains in Fur Store. Continue to serve as central repository to disseminate knowledge about HBC operations and early U.S. Army sites within the Reserve.	Expand scope and scale of center function. Locate facilities within Sale Shop and New Store.	Expand scope and scale of center function. Locate facilities in adaptive reuse structures within Vancouver Barracks. Partner with City and other Reserve Partners.
McLoughlin House National Historic Site	Continue technical assistance to McLoughlin House National Historic Site as able.	McLoughlin House National Historic Site directly administered by Fort Vancouver NHS. Congressional authorization required.	Same as Alternative B.

Natural Resource Management			
-----------------------------	--	--	--

	Retain current management.	Restore portion of prairie south of fort. Enhance natural shore condition of Columbia River. Recommend preservation of Reserve’s mature Garry oak stands. Encourage Reserve to adopt Integrated Pest Management practices.	Same as Alternative B.
--	----------------------------	--	------------------------

Recreational Resource Management			
----------------------------------	--	--	--

	Coordinate with city for placement of multi-use Discovery Historic Loop Trail.	Same as Alternative A plus establish non-historic trail from visitor center to Fort.	Same as Alternative B.
--	--	--	------------------------

Scenic Resource Management			
----------------------------	--	--	--

	Remove remaining T-hangers, tin hanger, and metal museum building and restore historic scene by end of 2002.	Same as Alternative A, plus enhance historic setting. Remove temporary fort parking lot. Screen modern structures where possible with compatible native plants.	Same as Alternative B, plus provide opening through railroad embankment to visually connect Fort to Waterfront.
--	--	---	---

Interpretation, Education, and Outreach			
---	--	--	--


East Fifth Street	Develop Comprehensive Interpretive Plan for park and Reserve. Establish preservation “field school” at NHS. Provide internships and host short courses on specific topics.	Same as Alternative A, plus produce new exhibits for Reserve visitor center. Design new exhibits at Fort, Village, and Waterfront. Develop one “heritage pass” for Reserve venues. Increase “living history” interpretation at Fort and add to Village and Waterfront. Hire volunteer coordinator for the NHS and McLoughlin House National Historic Site. Provide on-site archaeology interpretation when site activity is occurring.	Same as Alternative B, plus develop new exhibits relating to additional reconstructed or delineated buildings. Create permanent stratigraphy exhibit for interpretation purposes.
-------------------	--	--	---

An aerial sketch of Fort Vancouver, showing the fort's palisade, various buildings including the Salmon Store, the Counting House, and the Village, surrounded by trees and the Columbia River in the background.

# Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

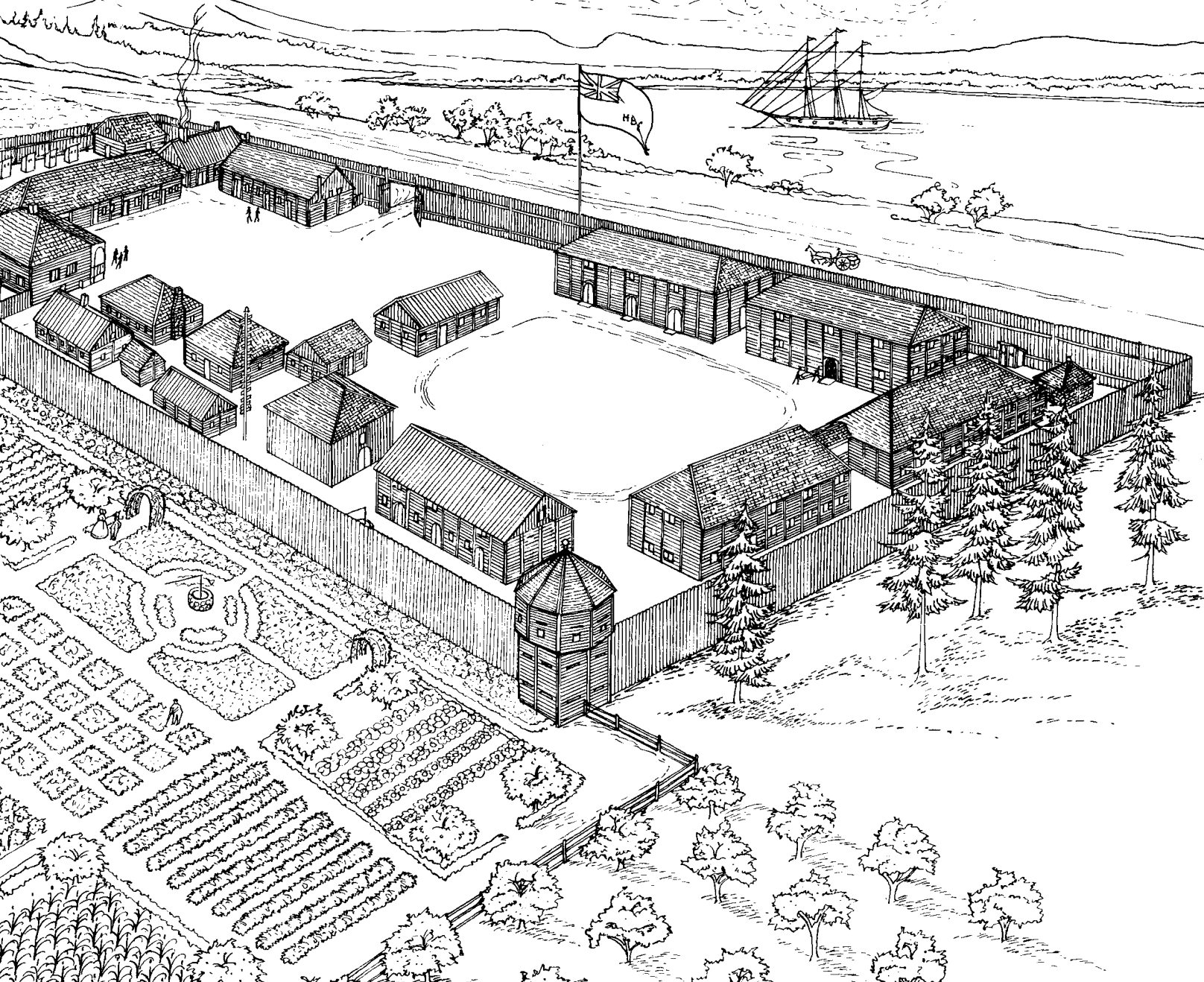
## Draft General Management Plan

### Summary of Actions for Each Alternative



ACTIONS	ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C
Park Facilities			
Fort Vancouver NHS Visitor Center	Retain visitor center in current location. Upgrade exhibits as able.	Remodel and enlarge as jointly managed Reserve visitor center by Reserve Partners and NPS. Feature interpretive program as overview of all venues with new exhibits. Utilize Fort, Waterfront, Parade Ground and Village for detailed NHS interpretation. Redesign auditorium/theater.	Remodel existing facility as jointly managed visitor center in interim. Redesign auditorium/theater. Relocate long-term Reserve visitor center in other location within Reserve or proximity. Retain existing visitor center as fort visitor center with new exhibits.
Administrative Facilities	Retain current facilities.	Move administration to one of four buildings fronting the Parade Ground for joint use with Reserve Partners. Remove two existing Mission 66 structures, if possible, to expand visitor parking lot and provide shuttle drop-off.	Same as Alternative B.
Maintenance Facilities	Retain current facilities	Move maintenance facilities off-site to south or east barracks and possibly co-locate with U.S. Army Reserve. Remove existing Mission 66 maintenance building, if possible, to expand visitor center parking lot and provide a shuttle drop-off.	Retain maintenance function in present location. Vacate administrative headquarters and employee housing and incorporate into maintenance complex.
Park Hours and Seasons of Operation	Retain current hours and seasons of operation.	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A
Parking, Access, and Circulation			
Fort Vancouver Visitor Center Parking	Retain current parking for staff and visitors.	Enlarge existing parking lot and add shuttle bus drop-off by removing Mission 66 structures, if possible.	Same as Alternative A.
Fort Visitor Parking	Retain temporary gravel parking lot in front of Fort.	Construct new parking lot in south or east barracks area in proximity to East Fifth Street. Pursue partner opportunities with Army Reserve. Restore temporary parking lot to historic fields.	Same as Alternative B.
East Fifth Street	Retain paved surfaces and parallel parking spaces. Keep street open to all traffic.	Close East Fifth Street to general traffic between Pearson Air Museum and U.S. Army Reserve area with cooperation with City. Narrow road width. Convert surface to rolled stone or other surface and remove concrete curbing. Provide for emergency vehicle access. Establish section of Discovery Historic Loop Trail on north side of road. Consider horse-drawn wagon use of road.	Same as Alternative B.
Fort Vancouver Waterfront	Retain three parking lots with no spaces for buses and recreational vehicles. Continue agreement with City for public use of Fort Vancouver Waterfront for passive recreational purposes.	Remove 2 of the 3 existing waterfront lots. Add 1 new lot north of Columbia Way adjacent to the railroad berm at current pedestrian crossing west of Old Apple Tree Park. Keep or increase current parking capacity and integrate shuttle stop.	Close Columbia Way from western edge of NHS boundary to a point east of the NPS Waterfront interpretive area. Remove the 3 existing parking lots and replace with 2 new ones east and west of the NPS interpretive area. Keep or increase current parking capacity and integrate shuttle stops.
Park Boundary and Land Protection			
Land Protection Opportunities	Retain authorized boundary in current configuration.	Add through legislation McLoughlin House National Historic Site as a unit of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. Administratively transfer any excess Army property in south and east barracks from Secretary of Army to the Secretary of the Interior. Retain some use of land for park operations (parking, administration, etc.) with most going to adaptive reuse cooperating with partners in accordance with barracks reuse master plan.	Same as Alternative B.
Regional Cooperation and Partnerships			
Partnership Opportunities	Implement Reserve Cooperative Management Plan. NPS plays key role in interpretation, education, and cultural resource preservation and management.	Same as Alternative A, plus portion of barracks area could function as a center for Reserve interpretation of cultural and natural resources for Vancouver, the lower Columbia River and Pacific Northwest environs. NPS education and research center complements Reserve center function. Establish “Parks As Classrooms” and “history camps.” Partner opportunities with area schools, colleges and universities, Elderhostel, Center for Columbia River History, and other groups.	Same as Alternative B.





**This illustration shows Fort Vancouver circa 1845. Reconstruction would continue to occur within the fort in all three alternatives.**

*“After chatting a little we were invited to a walk in the garden. And what a delightful place this. What a contrast this to the barren sand plains through which we had so recently passed. Here we find fruit of every discription. Apples peaches grapes. Pear plum & Fig trees in abundance. Cucumbers melons beans peas beats cabbage, taumotoes, & every kind of vegitable, to numerous to be mentioned. Every part is very neat & tastefully arranged fine walks, each side lined with strawberry vines. On the opposite end of the garden is a good Summer house covered with grapes vines. Here I must mention the party in London put the seeds of the grapes & apples, he ate in his vest pocket & soon after took a voyage to this country and left them here. Now they are greatly multiplied.”*

*Narcissa Whitman  
September 12, 1836*

tinue at their current levels. This alternative would include fulfilling the existing commitments and relationships with the Reserve Partners and providing technical assistance to the McLoughlin House National Historic Site in Oregon City, Oregon, currently an affiliated unit of the National Park System.

Since park operations are not static, but often evolve and change over time, this alternative makes the assumption that there would be corresponding incremental increases, such as operational funding due to inflation. The current configuration of fort buildings would be retained and additional buildings would be reconstructed, as funding becomes available. The Parade Ground would be maintained as usual and there would be limited site interpretation of the Village. The Fort Vancouver Waterfront would continue to be used for passive recreation and river viewing. There would continue to be inadequate staff for natural resource programs needed for maintenance of the orchard, garden, and removal of noxious plants. Volunteerism would be expected to continue at current levels. Interpretation needs at the NHS would continue to increase as more buildings are reconstructed and as the NPS continues to lead the interpretation and education function at the Vancouver National Historic Reserve.

No new substantial facility or program initiatives would be proposed under this alternative. The NHS would con-

tinue to work with the City of Vancouver to extend the city’s proposed Discovery Historic Loop Trail through the Village of the NHS and along East Fifth Street. In cooperation with the City of Vancouver and Washington Department of Transportation, the pedestrian overpass would be built over State Route 14 and the railroad to connect the Fort Vancouver Waterfront and the city’s Old Apple Tree Park to link the Fort and the Village. The current NHS visitor center would be retained in its current configuration and location, as would the current Vancouver National Historic Reserve visitor center situated in the historic General O.O. Howard House at the Vancouver Barracks.

#### **Alternative B Preferred Alternative**

Alternative B constitutes the Preferred Alternative of the National Park Service. This alternative contains several new elements for implementation that would result in expanded opportunities for the visitor to appreciate the broad sense of history that occurred at Fort Vancouver and its place in Northwest history. Specific actions include the reconstruction of nine Hudson’s Bay Company period structures within the fort palisade and two at the Village. A research and education center would be developed within the Fort. Interpretive components would be added including wayside exhibits and delineation of structures in certain locations. Much of the historic landscape would

be restored. The NPS would develop an interpretive area at the Waterfront by partially reconstructing the Salmon Store as an interpretive shed, and delineating several other historic HBC structures. The original location of the wharf would be simulated and the historic pond delineated with wetland plants. A portion of Columbia Way would be realigned to better accommodate visitor circulation and interpretation.

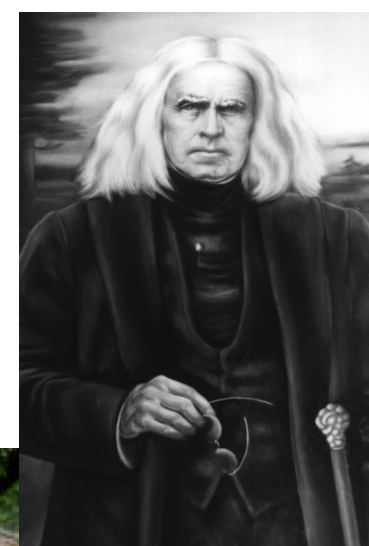
In cooperation with the City of Vancouver and the Washington Department of Transportation, the pedestrian overpass would be widened as a land bridge to allow for interpretation devices and vegetation. A local transit authority, in cooperation with NPS and other Reserve Partners, would implement a shuttle system to facilitate visitation. Other cooperative sharing would include administrative, maintenance, and visitor facilities with Reserve Partners. The NPS

would recommend that one of the four buildings fronting the historic Parade Ground as determined excess by the Secretary of the Army be renovated as the joint administrative headquarters for the park and other Reserve offices. Maximum use would be made of existing structures including renovation of the existing Fort Vancouver visitor center as the Vancouver National Historic Reserve visitor center jointly managed by the Reserve Partners including the NPS.

Implementation of this alternative would result in the development of additional educational outreach programs and new research facilities related to the Hudson’s Bay Company and early U.S. Army period. This alternative makes a recommendation that the McLoughlin House National Historic Site in Oregon City, Oregon become a unit of Fort Vancouver NHS

**Inset photo: Dr. John McLoughlin contributed to the success of Fort Vancouver.**

**Below: The McLoughlin National Historical Site in Oregon City, Oregon is proposed for administration and protection by Fort Vancouver National Historic Site staff.**





and be managed by Fort Vancouver National Historic Site staff. An act of Congress would be required to implement this recommendation.

The development costs estimated for implementing Alternative B would be \$11,924,000. In addition, the costs for the McLoughlin/Barclay Houses would be \$2,160,000. These estimates are provided to allow for a comparison of alternatives and are not for budgetary purposes. Costs are expressed in 2001 dollars and phased over 15-20 years. Securing funding for these projects would not expect to be solely from federally appropriated funds. Other public and private sources of funding would be sought to support this development activity. Additionally, some development costs may prove to be less expensive when donated materials, labor, and other support are forthcoming.

#### Alternative C

Alternative C contains many of the same actions that would be proposed for implementation under Alternative B with

some noted changes. Full reconstruction within the fort palisade would occur, along with the reconstruction of the two historic School Houses and a barn to the north of the Fort. Additional delineation of structures would occur at the Waterfront and the Village. The historic Salmon Store would be reconstructed along the Columbia River shoreline, as would the historic wharf and other waterfront features. An ethnobotanical garden would be constructed to interpret the local historic uses of native plants. An opening in the railroad berm would be created to visually link the Fort to the Waterfront. To facilitate visitor use and interpretation, a portion of Columbia Way would be closed to vehicular traffic in cooperation with the City of Vancouver.

The current NHS visitor center would be renovated and retained for more detailed interpretation concerning Fort Vancouver, while a new location would be sought for a joint Vancouver National Historic Reserve visitor facility to provide the public with information and orienta-



**The cultural landscape of the Parade Ground would be delineated and restored in Alternative B and Alternative C.**

tion to all the Reserve stories and venues. The location for this facility is yet to be determined, but priority would be given to rehabilitation of an historic structure within the Vancouver Barracks Historic District that is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The research and education center would be located within the Vancouver Barracks portion of the Reserve.

The estimated development costs for implementing Alternative C would be

\$16,014,000. In addition, the costs for the McLoughlin/Barclay Houses would be \$2,160,000 as in Alternative B.

The 60-day public review period presents an in-depth opportunity for the interested public to review and comment on the document. A series of public workshops will be held in Vancouver, Washington and Oregon City, Oregon during this period to obtain comments on the draft plan. The official public review period has begun and ends on January 6, 2003.

## What Are Your Comments?

### Send Us Your Comments

*The National Park Service invites you to share your comments and concerns regarding the draft general management plan and environmental impact statement.*

*By providing your comments on the draft document, you can help make the final plan a better plan to guide the future protection, public use, and management of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site.*

*The draft GMP/EIS contains three distinct alternatives for the future management of Fort Vancouver. The draft GMP identifies the alternative that is preferred by the NPS. Please let us know if you agree with the preferred alternative, prefer another alternative, or elements of other alternatives. You may also have ideas or concepts that the planning team may not have even considered.*

*We hope that you take the time to read and comment on the draft GMP/EIS. Your input is important to us. To mail, please fold this form in half, enclose additional sheets of comments if necessary, seal it with tape (do not staple), and mail to the preprinted address*

**SEND COMMENTS BY  
JANUARY 6, 2003**

*Please contact Tracy Fortmann, Superintendent (360 696-7655) for additional information*

Do you want to remain on the mailing list:

For future planning newsletters?

YES NO

For future park activities?

YES NO

Please print your name and address below if you wish to be added to the mailing list:

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

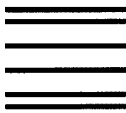
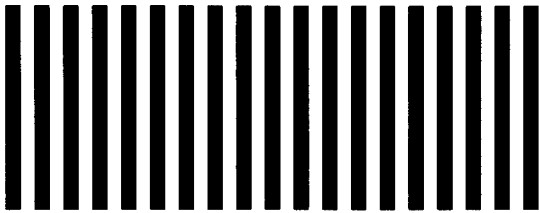
Comments:

Please include a separate sheet for additional comments.

All comments received will become part of the public record and copies of comments, including any names and home addresses of respondents, may be released for public inspection. Individual respondents may request that their home addresses be withheld from the public record, which will be honored to the extent allowable by law. Requests to withhold names and/or addresses must be stated prominently at the beginning of the comments. Anonymous comments will not be considered. Submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals indentifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

(cut along this line)

NO POSTAGE  
NECESSARY  
IF MAILED  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES



(fold here)

**OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300**

**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 12651 WASHINGTON DC

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**FORT VANCOUVER NHS GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
909 1ST AVE STE 500  
SEATTLE WA 98104-9882**

